



ABOUT MODERN STREETCAR



What is modern streetcar?

Modern streetcar operates on steel embedded tracks and is powered by overhead power lines. Typically mixed with automobile traffic, it acts as an urban circulator using the existing street system to navigate its travel. Portland and Seattle both have successful modern streetcar systems in place.

How is streetcar different from light rail?

Streetcar differs from light rail in its smaller vehicle size and single-car operation. Streetcar can operate with mixed traffic unlike light rail that operates in an exclusive lane. The stops are also different and more similar to local bus service. Streetcar stops more frequently and employs a simpler stop design.

What are the benefits of streetcar?

Streetcar, like any fixed rail investment, has the ability to:

- Strengthen communities by attracting new riders
- Strengthen existing neighborhoods
- Enhance the unique character of an area
- Create high-density development in a way that bus cannot
- Create walkable urban environments through the length of the route

Streetcar also fits well into a multi-modal transit system, focusing on short trips and conveniently connecting with other rail and bus modes. It works in complement with the other transit modes to improve regional mobility.

What is the construction impact of streetcar?

Modern streetcar systems are typically simpler to construct as compared to light rail, requiring less infrastructure and time. Streetcar construction is usually confined to the trackway and requires minimal, if any, right-of-way, keeping the streetscape character and sidewalks largely intact during and after construction.



	STREETCAR	LIGHT RAIL
Vehicle Length	65 to 75 feet	90 to 100 feet
Passenger Capacity	35 seats; comfort capacity of 130	66 seats; comfort capacity of 175
Stop / Station Design	Simple, closer to bus stop	More elaborate
Approximate Stop / Station Frequency	Every 1/4 to 1/2 mile	Every 1/2 to 1 mile
Vehicle Operation	Single car unit	Up to three vehicles linked together
Development	Along length of line	More concentrated around station areas

About Tempe Streetcar

The metro Phoenix region's first introduction of modern streetcar will occur with the 2.6-mile Tempe Streetcar line that will be operational by 2016. It will run in the Mill Avenue corridor between Rio Salado Parkway and Southern Avenue. The line will serve several neighborhoods, an eclectic business community, thousands of Arizona State University students, hundreds of special events and create opportunities for growth and revitalization in a regional urban center.

Contact

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